

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 14-20 and 31-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiyama et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,379,757 in view of Enomoto et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,967,969. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 14 has been amended to provide, in part, for “[a]n endoscopic imaging system, comprising: ...an external storage unit detachably attachable to an electrical connector in said endoscopic imaging system for storing adjustment values to be set by said adjusting elements” Independent claim 32 already provides, in part, for, “[a]n endoscopic imaging system comprising: ... a portable recording medium slot to which a portable recording medium for storing adjustment value is detachably connectable” The amendment to claim 14 is therefore intermediate in scope to claim 32, and therefore raises no new issues.

The Examiner admits “that although Hiyama discloses a portable recording medium ... it is silent about providing the same unit detachably attachable to the endoscopic system storing adjustment values as specified in the amended claims,” (Office Action, page 3, lines 9-12). The Examiner, however, contends that, “Enomoto discloses the same portable/external storage detachably attached to the endoscopic unit system for storing adjustment values as specified in the newly amended claims (See Enomoto col. 3, lines 3-59, col. 4, lines 1-10, and col. 6, lines 41-57),” (Office Action, page 3, lines 13-16). However, Enomoto only discloses a storage area for the serial number of a connected endoscope 10 and the operating time for its usage, the storage area being provided in the RAM 34 of the video processor and light storage device 20, (column 6, lines 41-46). Although it is stated that this information “may be written to a recording media such as a magnetic recording media including a hard disk” (column 6, lines 46-48), there is no disclosure, teaching, or suggestion that such a hard disk is an external storage unit or portable recording medium, as claimed in independent claims 14 and 32, respectively. Moreover, there is no disclosure, teaching, or suggestion that the external storage unit or portable recording medium is detachably attachable or detachably connectable to an electrical connector in the endoscopic imaging system or to a portable recording medium slot, as claimed, respectively, in independent claims 14 and 32.

Since claims 15-20, 31, and 33 are directly or indirectly dependent upon one of independent claims 14 and 32, they are allowable over Hiyama et al. in view of Enomoto et al. for the same reasons recited above with respect to the allowability of independent claims 14 and 32 over Hiyama et al. in view of Enomoto et al.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of claims 14-20 and 31-33 is respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by Facsimile to (571) 273-8300 addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

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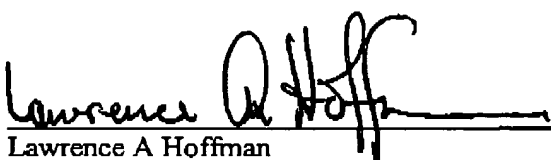

Signature

November 22, 2005

Date of Signature

LAH:lac

Respectfully submitted,


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